



For the National Anti-Slavery Standard,  
National Reform Convention,  
Wm. Whipper and Robert Purvis' Letter to David Ruggles,  
COLUMBIA, August 22d, 1840.  
MR. DAVID RUGGLES,—

DEAR SIR:—On our arrival home from attending the Fourth Anniversary of the American Moral Reform Society, we received your letter of the 17th inst., together with the papers mentioned therein, inviting us to attend the "National Reformed Convention of Colored Citizens," to be held in New Haven, Conn., on the 7th day of September next. We should doubtless be much gratified with the

Our Society, at its late meeting, passed a resolution against the prevailing custom of calling distinctive Conventions, (designated by complexional lines) for philanthropic purposes, and we sincerely hope that we shall possess sufficient fortitude to carry the principle into practical effect. We regard the position the Convention is designed

of the age. We can see no just reason why the "colored people" should not be anxious to place themselves on the highest pinnacle of the temple of human freedom. Let us boldly, fearlessly, and earnestly contend for the great fundamental principle of man's equality, and leave the proslavery advocates of caste, the hateful task of dividing among themselves the miserable scraps of their fallen empire.

from the platform of our common humanity. Let our com-  
plexional predilections become absorbed in the dignity of our  
mission—and let us cease to recognize in others those in-  
vidious distinctions that have severed our common interest  
in twain—and then we shall not only have made one grand  
step in the cause of human improvement; but we shall have  
enriched ourselves behind a grand principle, that all the  
"bettering rams" of prejudice and slavery will be unable  
to demolish. If we wait light on this subject, let us look  
to nature, and nature's God. If we are in doubt as to the

civilized Europe, and we shall see that those titled monarchies of the "Old World" have abolished the "aristocracy of the skin;" and shall we, after inhaling the breath of a republican atmosphere for full half a century, be less willing to justice than they! The great principle of "man's equality" is fast spreading throughout the earth, and freighted with the promise of a new and glorious era for man's redemption.

has not the great principle that a man is a man been ushered forth by Almighty power, clothed in the parosphy of nations, from the recent Convention at London, and is now being borne on the wings of the wind throughout the habitable globe. Surely the world is in travail with the spirit of regeneration—the future is pregnant with glorious results. "Nation will be born in a day." And shall we who have felt the "scorpion's lash, and viper's sting," not gird ourselves with the armor of truth, and cease to occupy a platform too divided

minute to embrace "creation." And have not you, Sir, approved of the course of our friend Garrison and his associates in London for refusing to take their seats in the Convention, because "one-half of the human family became disfranchised by recognizing the principle of its organization. Then surely you will be perfectly able to tolerate our not accepting a seat in a Convention that excludes our "white brethren." It is for this reason that we cannot regard the Convention as National in its character.

It is now full time we should awake to our true interests—our former course has been founded in error, and the sooner we repent of it the better. Its tendency has been

The cause of justice and humanity no longer impels us to the necessity of multiplying separate schools, and separate churches, we had better be engaged in removing those badges of distinction we have already erected ; and we shall leave to coming generations the benefit of a noble and illustrious example. Let us boldly strike for freedom and freedom from ancient and obnoxious customs and usages, and we shall yet stand forth a regenerated and free people.

principle, it will operate on our lethargic spirits like a "galvanic battery" on a "lifeless corpse," and we shall be raised by its resurrectionary power into newness of life. With this sincere desire that your natural, moral, and mental vision may aid you in your untiring zeal for our common welfare, we subscribe ourselves yours, in the cause of Liberty and Equality,

WILLIAM WHIPPER,  
ROBERT PERDUE

For the National Anti-Slavery Standard,  
Methodist Anti-Slavery Convention.

MR. EDITOR—I am pleased to witness a disposition on the part of the Methodist Abolitionists to bring the great question of 'rights' before the public. Having myself, for a number of years, been a member of that communion, I feel a deep interest in all that relates to her prosperity.

I recently observed in "Zion's Watchman" a "call" to a "National Anti-Slavery Convention," to be held in the city of New-York, on the 6th of October next. Having had the honor of being a member of two or three Methodist Conventions, and not being abundantly pleased with the "management" of either of them, I have a great solicitude to understand the plan of operation proposed to be pursued at the contemplated meeting.

My objections to the former Conventions were, that they

emire control of them, and throughout the meetings seemed to have but one object in view—the preservation of their own rights—and were very ready to direct the energies of the laity to the attainment of that object, while not a measure, of any importance, for the defence or security of the "rights of the laity," has been brought forward. I do not by these remarks wish to excite distrust or jealousy of the ministry, for many of them are set for the "defence of the

But I simply refer to the past (in view of the proposed Convention) for "what has been may be again," and I am "more than ever convinced" of the fallacy of the lady of the church over receiving from the ministry their just and equal rights and privileges, until they not only assert, but enforce a determination to maintain them. Why has the anti-slavery cause progressed so slowly in the Methodist Episcopal Church? Simply because the tremendous power that controls her destiny did not will it. Hence its progress

...and substance has been brought to bear upon all who directed from that well. The sheep's features of Episcopal Methodism (and what is there in her government which is not despotic) has been developed to a fearful extent. This "rights" of her laity have been utterly annihilated, and her "chief minister," like Paulding with fell purpose, from reluctance to condone those of their own privileged underlings whose whimsy or the "bondman's" wrong had rendered them obnoxious to their dispassionate

the annihilation of the right of the lady, results in the annihilation of all rights. The ministry of the Methodist Episcopal Church have concentrated all power in their own hands, which power is used as best serves the interest of their chief minister, and thus has experienced what they dared to dissent from them upon the question of slavery. Hence those of our numerous brethren, who gave at least tacit consent to the lobby of the lady, are alarmed at the danger that surrounds themselves. The poisoned chalice

been sponsored them. Hence the luncheon lady who  
rejuvenated through our luncheon a gathering of Mo-  
rondists. I spoke at these mantle tables, but I also  
wanted distinctly what are the specific objects aimed  
at in this rallying up should be open and frank. What  
was the result of former meetings? No answer, what  
the time was consumed in devious ways and means, what  
when devoted were perfectly futile, to protect themselves  
That they should have to be so, to protect themselves

that they, when in conference assembled, might have the right to utter forth their deep denunciations of slavery that they might attend conventions and there express their detestation of southern oppression. But when and where has the first movement been made to burst the bonds which bind



CYRUS M. BUCKLEIGH, P. O., Farmington, Conn.  
JARED S. BRAINARD, P. O., Killingly, Conn.  
AZEL TANNER, P. O., Providence, R. I.  
LEWIS PITTS, Danby, Tompkins Co., N. Y.

